

A Message from the County Executive

“We are so fortunate in Dane County to have more than 30 diverse and beautiful county parks that offer something for everyone to enjoy.”



From hiking and biking, to disc golf, canoeing and kayaking, and even horseback riding, our parks offer diverse recreation activities to fit the needs of our residents and visitors. I hope this useful guide will help you discover a new adventure while you get outdoors to enjoy your county parks.”

Joe Parisi
Dane County Executive

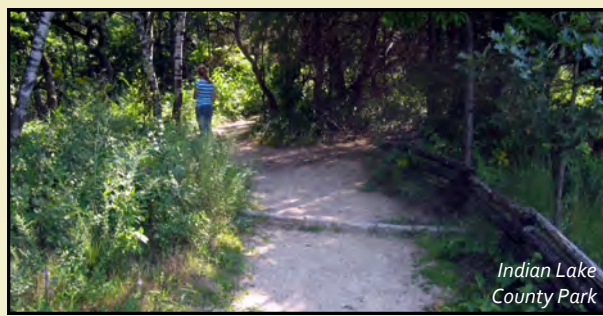
Biking & Multi-use Trails

Dane County is a popular biking and hiking destination. The Capital City Trail, developed by Dane County, is one of the most popular off-road biking trails in the county. A state trail pass is required for anyone 16 and older who bikes, skates or roller-skis. The trail runs south of Madison between Verona Rd and Nob Hill near Industrial Dr and connects to the Military Ridge and Badger State Trails. Trail passes are available at kiosks along the trail and online at www.reservedane.com. Dane County Parks also offers rustic hard surface bicycle trails at Viking County Park, Pheasant Branch Conservancy, and CamRock County Park. The paved Ice Age Junction Trail runs through Badger Prairie County Park and provides a main connection to the Military Ridge State Trail.



Hiking Trails

Dane County abounds with scenic trails popular for nature walks and hikes. CamRock, Donald, and Indian Lake County Parks offer some of the best hiking trails with rugged terrain and scenic vistas. Many trails also provide cross-country skiing and snowshoeing opportunities during the winter months. Park users are welcome to pick edible fruits, nuts, mushrooms and berries.



Indian Lake County Park

Camping



Lake Farm County Park

Babcock, Brigham, Lake Farm, Mendota, and Token Creek County Parks all offer designated campgrounds. Campsites are available on a first-come first-served basis or by reservation. Campsites must be reserved at least 5 days prior to the initial camping date and can be made online at www.reservedane.com. Campers must register and pay the camping fee prior to setting up. Group camping by reservation is available at Brigham, Indian Lake (youth), Lake Farm, McCarthy, and Token Creek County Parks and Scheidegger Forest. Contact Dane County Parks at 608-224-3730 or visit www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks for complete campground reservation information and regulations.

Disc Golf

Dane County provides two premier disc golf courses.

The **Vallarta-Ast Disc Golf Course** has 27 holes and is located in Token Creek County Park. It is recognized as one of the top courses in the United States.

The new **Capital Springs Disc Golf Course** has 18 holes and is located at the Capital Springs Recreation Area.

A permit is required to play and available at the course or online at www.reservedane.com/permits.



Dogs in the Parks

Dane County Parks was one of the first park systems in the nation to develop off-leash dog exercise areas. Off-leash dog parks are available at Badger Prairie, Capital Springs Recreation Area, Indian Lake, Prairie Moraine, Token Creek, Viking, and Yahara Heights County Parks. Dogs are welcome in all county parks with the purchase of a daily or annual permit. County permits are also good for the cities of Madison, Middleton, and Sun Prairie dog parks. Dogs must be leashed at all times except within the off-leash dog exercise areas. Dog-walking is prohibited on groomed cross-country ski trails when snow is present. All dogs must have a current municipal dog license.



Dog permits may be purchased at the parks or at www.reservedane.com/permits. Visit www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks and click on the “Dog Parks” link or contact Dane County Parks at 608-224-3730 for complete dog exercise area information.

Equestrian Trails

Equestrian trails can be found at four Dane County Parks including Donald (6 miles inside park, 12 miles outside park), McCarthy (over 4 miles), Token Creek (2.5 miles), and Walking Iron County Parks (almost 6 miles). A Dane County equestrian trail permit is required for trail use and may be purchased at the parks or at www.reservedane.com/permits.

Visit the Friends of Donald Park website at www.donaldpark.org for information regarding trail easements outside park boundaries.

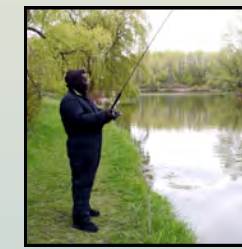


Fishing

Dane County offers some of the best and most diverse fishing opportunities in Wisconsin. In the southwestern Driftless Area of the county, multiple coldwater streams provide excellent trout fishing. Dane County has acquired nearly 18 miles of streambank easements that provide public access for trout fishing. Note that public access is by foot travel only. A map of public streambank easements is available online at www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks/fishing.aspx.



The Yahara chain of lakes, Mendota, Monona, Waubesa and Kegonsa, provide great fishing for a variety of species throughout the year. In particular, all are well known for their fantastic panfishing. Lake Waubesa, Lake Monona and Lake Wingra are all excellent muskellunge fishing lakes.



Lake Waubesa, Lake Monona and Lake Wingra are all excellent muskellunge fishing lakes.

In the far northwest corner of the county, Crystal and Fish Lakes provide exceptional panfish and largemouth bass action. The Jenni & Kyle Preserve offers great shore fishing opportunities for kids under the age of 16 and persons with permanent disabilities. Fish Camp, Lake Farm, Riley-Deppe, Salmo Pond, Stewart Lake, and Token Creek County Parks also offer accessible fishing piers.



Contact Dane County Parks at 608-224-3730 to obtain a free copy of the Yahara Fishing Club’s Shore Fishing on the Madison Area Lakes.

Hunting

Dane County Parks works with many partners to develop a variety of hunting opportunities on county-owned lands. **Limited Access Archery Hunting** by permit for deer and turkey is offered on select county park properties.



Dane County Wildlife Areas are lands that are primarily undeveloped with limited parking opportunities along the outer fringes. The lands are open to most hunting activities. There are now over 1,500 acres of hunting opportunities offered at Black Earth Creek - Sunnyside Unit, Donald, Door Creek Wetlands, Dorn Creek, Sugar River, and Walking Iron County Wildlife Areas.

Call 608-224-3730 or visit the Dane County Parks website at www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks/hunting.aspx for regulations on the limited access archery hunt and County Wildlife Areas.

Ice Age Trail

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail corridor travels north to south through the western side of the county and follows the geological deposits that mark the extent of the last glacial advancement through Wisconsin. Trails within the corridor provide users with an opportunity to see and learn first-hand about impacts of the glacier on our landscape. Perhaps one of the best places in the state to view a terminal moraine can be found along the segment of trail at Prairie Moraine County Park.

Please note that all lands shown within the Ice Age Trail corridor on the map are not under public ownership and hiking should only take place on segments that are officially signed and posted for public use. More information about the Ice Age National Scenic Trail can be found on the Ice Age Trail Alliance website at www.iceagetrail.org.

Historical/Cultural

These properties are set aside for the preservation, restoration or reconstruction of features significant to the history or cultural heritage of an area.



Halfway Prairie School, operating from 1844 - 1961, is the oldest rural elementary school in Dane County. It is open for visitors on holidays and Sunday afternoons from 1-5 pm, Memorial Day through Labor Day, courtesy of the Friends of Old Halfway Prairie.

Lake View Hill Park is located on the north side of the City of Madison. From 1930-1966, the site served as a county tuberculosis sanatorium. The buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places, and remnant landscape features on the site help tell the story of the sanatorium.

Schumacher Farm is located just east of the Village of Waunakee. The original property was donated to Dane County Parks by Marcella Pendall Schumacher and is a showcase of early 1900s Dane County farming practices. For more information, visit the Friends of Schumacher Farm website at www.schumacherfarmpark.org.



Evidence of Native American habitation in Dane County dates back from roughly 10,000 to 5,000 BCE. From that period up until the European settlement, Dane County was inhabited by a number of different tribes. The **Lake Farm Archeological District** was designated and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 after an intensive archaeological survey. That survey identified 32 prehistoric sites at Lake Farm County Park. Artifacts discovered during the survey date back to the Late Woodland period, around 8,000 BCE.

Dane County Parks Wisconsin



Boardwalk at Token Creek County Park

Lake Access

Dane County lakes, rivers, and streams offer endless boating and fishing opportunities. Facilities range from modern, paved boat landing areas with fish cleaning stations to secluded canoe launches.



Lake access sites also allow for access to winter recreation activities. Improved lake access areas that are maintained throughout the year require a county daily or annual lake access permit, which may be purchased at the launch sites, online at www.reservedane.com/permits, or by calling 608-224-3730. The county permit is also valid at City of Madison and City of Monona lake access sites. The following websites contain a wealth of information for boaters and fishing enthusiasts: www.danewaters.com and www.countyofdane.com/lwrd.

Lake maps showing the location of lake access sites are available at the Dane County Parks Office or online at www.danewaters.com/lakemaps. Boater safety, ice permit, and flotation requirement information are available from the Dane County Marine and Trail Enforcement Bureau at 608-284-6878 or online at www.danesheriff.com/marine_trail.aspx.



Picnicking & Shelters

Picnic sites are available at most Dane County Parks. The park system includes more than 30 picnic shelters that may be reserved for exclusive use for family get-togethers, meetings, and other events. Shelter facilities range from modern sites that accommodate very large groups to rustic, smaller shelters perfect for family picnics. The rustic timber-frame shelter at Scheidegger County Forest in the Town of Verona was constructed in 2010 entirely of wood harvested from the property. A rustic shelter at Donald County Park in the Town of Springdale is also a popular destination for family events and gatherings. For information on fee schedules and availability of all shelters, visit www.reservedane.com or contact the Dane County Parks office at 608-224-3730.



Shelter at Lake Farm County Park

Mt. Biking & Cyclocross

CamRock County Park offers excellent mountain biking trails for riders of all skill levels. Trails at this park were developed with extensive help from the Friends of CamRock Park and the Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP). The CORP website at www.madcitydirt.com provides information about mountain biking in Dane County. Badger Prairie County Park also offers mountain bike trails that are geared more for beginning riders. A Dane County mountain bike trail permit is required and may be purchased at the parks or at www.reservedane.com/permits.

Cyclocross races are held each year at CamRock and Badger Prairie County Parks through special event permits.



Volunteer Program

The Parks Volunteer Program is a partnership that not only benefits Dane County Parks, but also park users and the Dane County community. Every year, thousands of volunteers of all ages are involved in activities such as restoring native habitat, conducting research, serving as park advocates and public relation representatives, assisting with conservation projects, fundraising, promoting informational and educational events and more.



Volunteer opportunities are available for individuals or school, church, community, corporate, or “Friends of the Park” groups. The program provides volunteers with an outstanding opportunity to better understand the Dane County Parks system at a grass-roots level. Past volunteer accomplishments include poetry trail development; invasive vegetative species removal; prescribed burns; prairie seed collecting, cleaning, and planting; park research; fund raising; trail clearing and stewardship; and tree planting. For information on how you can get involved, please contact the Dane County Parks Volunteer Coordinator at 608-224-3601 or visit www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks/volunteer.



Volunteers plant native prairie plants at Babcock County Park

Water Trails

Dane County has an abundance of lakes, streams, and rivers that offer a variety of paddling adventures. Access to some of the water trails identified on this brochure is limited to public road right-of-ways at bridge crossings. Please respect private property and remember that the waterways are public, but the adjacent lands, in most instances, are private. More information on paddling opportunities in Dane County can be found at www.capitolwatertrails.org and www.danewaters.com (search on Water Trails).



Kayaking on Lake Monona

Winter Recreation

There’s much to love about winter at Dane County Parks. **Groomed cross-country ski trails** can be found at CamRock, Indian Lake, Lake Farm, and Token Creek County Parks. Ski trail permits are required on groomed trails and may be purchased at the parks or at www.reservedane.com/permits. Dane County lake access sites provide connections to many of the best **ice fishing** areas in the county.

Several parks include segments of the extensive Dane County **snowmobile trail system**. Excellent **snowshoe opportunities** can be found at Donald, Festge, Stewart Lake, CamRock, and Token Creek County Parks. Snowshoeing is allowed on all trails not designated as groomed cross-country ski trails. For information on seasonal trail conditions, contact the Dane County Parks information line at 608-242-4576 or visit www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks.



Donald County Park

Lussier Family Heritage Center



The Lussier Family Heritage Center is located at Lake Farm County Park within the Capital Springs Recreation Area. The Heritage Center was built almost entirely through private funds, including a very substantial donation from John H. Lussier.

The lodge-style building, surrounded by native flowers and prairie restorations, is available for meetings, conferences, banquets, weddings and receptions, private parties, artistic performances, special events, and more. The Heritage Center has banquet halls on two levels and boasts a large second-story porch overlooking a lower level patio and firepit. There are also nature and bike trails leading to and from the main building.

The upper level houses the William G. Lunney and Judie M. Pfeifer Donor Recognition Wall and the Natural Heritage Land Trust Conservation Wall, which recognize persons and organizations who have provided significant contributions and/or have worked to preserve the county’s natural heritage.

For reservation information, call 608-224-3604, or visit the website at www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks/heritage.



Reservations

Shelters
Shelter facilities may be reserved for exclusive use by groups, organizations, or others. Shelter reservations begin at 10 a.m. and expire at 9:30 p.m. Reservations must be made at least 5 days in advance. Additional permits are required for possessing and/or consuming alcoholic beverages by groups of 25 or more persons of legal drinking age, and for bringing large structures or play equipment into a park.

Campgrounds
Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis or by reservation. Reservations for a 2-night minimum stay must be made at least 5 days prior to the initial camping date. Campsites may be occupied for a maximum of 14 days. All campers must register and pay the camping fee prior to setting up. Campers must occupy the site the first night following registration. Campers may set-up at 3 p.m., or earlier if the campsite is available. Campsites must be vacated by 3:00 p.m. on the last day of registration. A senior (65+) discount is available. For advance reservations only, stay 6 consecutive nights and receive one night free.

Group Camping
Group camping is available for adults and youths in designated group campgrounds. Reservations must be made at least 5 days in advance by contacting the Park office at 608-224-3730.



For information on specific campsites, and to make shelter and campsite reservations, please visit www.reservedane.com or call the Dane County Parks office at 608-224-3730, Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Permits & Park Policies

Permits are required for the following:

- Aeromodelling
- Campsites, shelters
- Disc golf
- Dog(s)
- Geocache
- Lake access
- Metal detecting (no fee)
- Tenney Lock
- Trails - cross-country ski, equestrian, mt. bike and state trails

Permits are not required for youth under 16 years of age.

Permits may be purchased online at www.reservedane.com or by calling the Dane County Parks office at 608-224-3730.

Special Permits
A written permit is required for the following:

- All public meetings
- Assemblies
- Special events
- Tournaments
- Organized cycling events
- Entertainment
- Sale of any item or article
- Mooring a boat for 2+ consecutive nights
- Other specified activities in the Dane County Ordinance (DCO 53.02).

Special Permits may be obtained by calling the Dane County Parks office at 608-224-3730.

Refund policy:
Refunds are made in the form of a Park credit that may be applied to future park services through December 31st of the year following the date of issue. No credit shall be processed for an amount less than \$10. The one-time reservation fee is non-refundable.

Park Hours:
Unless otherwise posted or with the exception of those persons registered for camping, park use hours are from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. Some park facilities are closed during the winter from November 1st until May 1st.

Contact Information

DANE COUNTY PARKS OFFICE
Land & Water Resources Department
5201 Fen Oak Drive, Room 208
Madison, WI 53718
Dane County Parks Office..... 608-224-3730
Email: dane-parks@countyofdane.com

LUSSIER FAMILY HERITAGE CENTER
3101 Lake Farm Road
Madison, WI 53711
Manager / Information Line..... 608-224-3604
Heritage Center Fax..... 608-224-3607
Email: heritagecenter@countyofdane.com



For online Camping/Shelters Reservations & Park Permits www.reservedane.com



Dane County Parks www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks

Donations & Memorials

Your generous donation will help us continue to maintain and improve the Dane County Parks system.

A variety of donation and memorial options are available. Please visit our website at www.countyofdane.com/lwrd/parks/grants.aspx or call 608-224-3730 to find out more about the many ways you can give.